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film

Film exposes government spying

"THE INTELLIGENCE NETWORK"

A film by the Campaign for Political Rights, 201 Massachusetts Ave. NE, Washington, D.C., tel: 202-547-4705.

By **DIANE ST. CLAIR**

Having weathered a long series of revelations concerning the abuses of intelligence agencies like the FBI and the CIA, many people may be ready to believe that a congressional slap on the hand has taught them a lesson that they won't forget. Adamant in its warning that we not be fooled, "The Intelligence Network" reminds us that the structure for official spying is still intact at home and abroad.

FILM'S PRODUCERS

The film was produced by the Campaign for Political Rights (formerly the Campaign to Stop Government Spying). This is a coalition of over 80 organizations, both left-liberal and progressive, committed to ending covert operations abroad and political spying and harassment in the United States. The film introduces people to the issue of political surveillance and harass-

ment and shows how such activity is used against political groups with many different constituencies, ranging from the women's movement to the student movement, the peace movement and the Black movement. At times the agencies did more than just spy, as in the case of the police raid on Black Panther headquarters in Chicago, which led to the murders of Fred Hampton and Mark Clark.

SPYING AT HOME, ABROAD

The CIA has historically engaged in many covert actions abroad, as in the 1973 overthrow of Chile's President Salvadore Allende. What "The Intelligence Network" forces the viewer to confront, in an alarmingly clear and forceful way, is the connection between illegal action abroad and at home.

To make its point, the film examines the connection between the coup in Chile and the 1976 assassination of Orlando Letelier, who was Allende's minister of defense before the coup. Letelier was murdered in Washington, D.C. by Cuban nationalists, working with the Chilean secret police (DINA). A colleague, Ronni Karpen Moffitt

was killed in the same bomb blast which killed Letelier.

The film contains interviews with Letelier's widow, Isabel, and with Robert Borosage, Director of the Institute for Policy Studies, where both Letelier and Moffitt worked. Isabel Letelier recounts the election of Allende, the mood of the country, the coup which overthrew the government, and finally, her husband's assassination. Borosage analyzes the structure of CIA operations and uses the Chilean example to show how that structure worked. He also explains how CIA activity led to the murder.

ORGANIZERS HARASSED

Important too is the film's coverage of domestic spying. Political organizers from across the country—ministers, lawyers, organizers, professors—often with their police files in hand, describe how they were harassed by intelligence units.

The film's final message is that political spying is still going on, with the intelligence agencies' new targets including the anti-nuclear power movement and the American Indian Movement (AIM).